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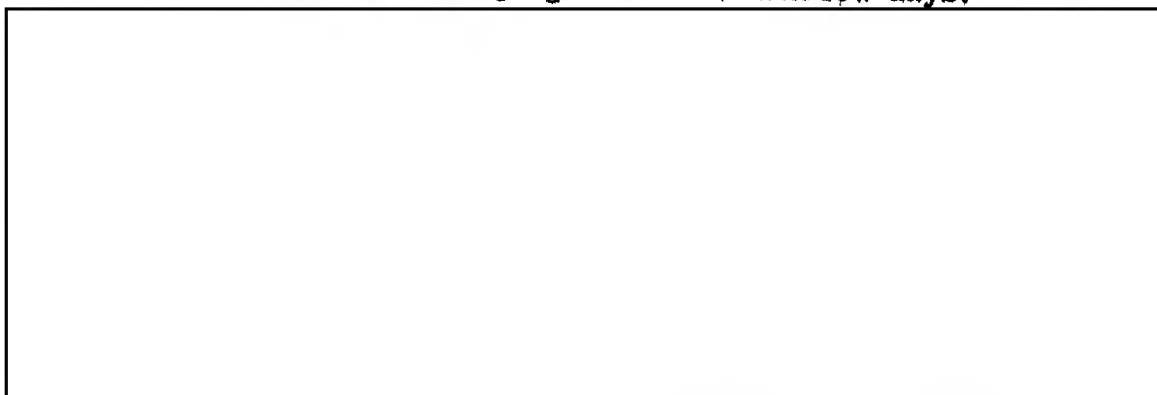
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GENERAL

1. Early hostilities discounted--The Commander-in-Chief of US Forces in Europe reports from Heidelberg that the joint conference of US intelligence officials in Germany, in its monthly review of the imminence of hostilities, estimates that the sensitive factors do not indicate a probability of imminent hostilities with the Soviet Union. The officials also estimate that as a result of the current large-scale maneuvers in East Germany, Soviet capabilities for launching a surprise attack are now stronger than at any time since the end of World War II.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs in the above estimate.)

2. Tibet negotiations to shift to Peiping--US Embassy New Delhi reports that the Tibetan delegation, currently engaged in preliminary conversations with the Chinese Communist Ambassador to India regarding the status of Tibet, has been informed that both Lhasa and Peiping are now agreeable to a transfer of negotiations to Peiping; the Tibetan delegation will probably depart for Peiping within the next few days.



Document No. 70
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
☐ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763
Date: MAR 1978

Army and State Department
review(s) completed.

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FAR EAST

3. INDOCHINA: French to maintain mobile force--US Consulate Hanoi has been officially informed that General Juin has decided, in connection with the defense of Tonkin: (a) to keep French forces mobile and available for "trouble-shooting" anywhere in the delta area; and (b) to fully arm Vietnamese military forces in the area and give them the mission of holding the villages. The Consulate estimates that French tenure in Tonkin will be limited to "two to three months" unless "help comes from France or the UN." The Consulate reports that a French official has expressed skepticism regarding the possibility of reinforcements from France. The Consulate also reports that French Minister for the Associated States Letourneau and High Commissioner for Indochina Pignon "seem to be playing with the idea" of soliciting UN intervention.

THE AMERICAS

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4. ECUADOR-PERU: Armed conflict considered unlikely--US Embassy Lima has been informed by the Peruvian Foreign Minister that there was only "one chance in a thousand" Peru would attack Ecuador but that he actually feared an attack on Peru by Ecuador.

(CIA Comment: Tension in Ecuadoran-Peruvian relations was increased by renewed discussion in September of the long-standing boundary dispute. Recent reports of the movement of Peruvian troops toward the Ecuadoran frontier has further increased tension, and one or two minor frontier incidents may occur. However, a serious armed conflict between the two countries will not take place at this time.)